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Page 21

Breast health

Screening numbers are on the rise in
Niagara
Page 3

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ZOMBIE WALK



MARYANNE FIRTH/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Sheri Truskoski does a trial run of Jennifer Brown's makeup for the fourth annual Welland Zombie Walk, taking place Sunday in the city's downtown core.

Zombies plan to invade Welland Sunday

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

As her transformation begins, her body stiffens and her eyes roll back into her head.

Blood drips from her mouth and an indecipherable sound escapes her lips as she staggers toward the door.

Jennifer Brown is ready. The Welland resident is one of hundreds expected to play undead in the Rose City's downtown core on Sunday during the fourth annual Welland Zombie Walk.

The brainchild of Steve

Lambert and James Takeo, the walk has grown in strides each year since its inception — from eight people at the inaugural outing to 300 in 2013.

Takeo would like to see last year's attendance matched, if not exceeded, when the walking dead hit the streets later this month.

Walkers are asked to meet at the Welland bus terminal at 6:30 p.m.

Non-perishable food items will be collected for The Hope Centre and pet necessities for Welland and District Humane Society. No cash donations will be accepted.

The horde of brain-cravers will move down East Main St., cross Main Street Bridge and head back along Division Street Bridge. The crowd will then walk down Division St., Cross St. and back up East Main to the terminal.

While hundreds of people came out to participate in 2013, many also lined the streets to watch the undead action.

"It was like we were a parade," Lambert said with a laugh, while adding he hopes to see the trend continue.

See **WALK** on Page 2



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UPFRONT

■ **HALLOWEEN:** Haunted catacomb helps charity

Will you brave the Tunnel of Terror?



ALISON LANGLEY
QMI Agency Niagara

A couple in Niagara Falls hope to scare up some cash for charity this month.

Karyn and Dave Torbett's favourite holiday is Halloween and for the past five years they've turned their backyard into a haunted catacomb for young and old alike.

"We love Halloween," Dave said.

And they also love helping others.

While there is no admission fee to enter their Tunnel of Terror on Loyalist Ave. they will be accepting food donations for Project SHARE.

ALISON LANGLEY/NIAAGARA FALLS REVIEW
Karyn and Dave Torbett prepare their Tunnel of Terror. The haunted catacombs on Loyalist Ave. will be open to the public Oct. 29, 30 and 31.

TUNNEL OF TERROR

3007 Loyalist Ave.
Oct. 29, 30 and 31
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

as well as monetary donations to help a 13-year-old Port Colborne boy in his battle against cancer.

"We want to give the kids a safe place to celebrate Halloween as well as to raise awareness and money for charities," Dave said.

"We've all been touched by cancer in one way shape or form."

All money raised will be forwarded to the family to help with transportation costs and other expenses.

Last year, 650 people braved the Tunnel of Ter-

ror, which raised \$950 for a 12-year-old girl battling brain cancer and 500 pounds of food for Project SHARE.

"We had some kids coming through 50 times," Karyn said.

"Last year on Halloween, the weather was so bad that we closed a bit early and we had a group come from out of town so we opened it right back up again."

The couple start preparing for the event in early October and Dave estimates it takes "hundreds" of hours to create the final product which includes smoke machines, lasers and cast of costumed characters.

The Tunnel of Terror runs Oct. 29, 30 and 31 from 6 to 10 p.m.

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■ **WALK**

Children who participate receive goodies

From Page 1

Asked what sets Welland's zombie walk apart from those in other communities, Lambert believes the answer is simple: "Ours is family-friendly."

It's an opportunity for children to dress up, go out with their families and celebrate Halloween in a fun way, said the father-of-three.

"I would've been stoked to participate when I was a kid," said Lambert, who has been a fan of the living dead for as long as he can remember.

It's a matter, he added, of parents knowing when their children are old enough to participate in such an event.

"Maybe zombies are not for everyone," Takeo said. "But let the kids who are enjoying it, enjoy it."

Children, who each receive a treat bag, are not required to dress in their undead attire and can instead come in any Halloween costume of their choosing.

Despite their chaotic



nature, zombies participating in the walk are asked to stay on the sidewalks, obey traffic laws and not touch private property. Volunteer crossing guards are provided to help ensure everyone's safety.

"The most important thing is that everyone is safe," Lambert said.

Local businesses have shown support to the walk, donating prizes that will be handed out to first-, second- and third-place winners in a variety of costume categories including best family or group, best adult, best teen and best under 13.

Each will be chosen based

on moans of support from the crowd.

Anyone interested in volunteering on the night of the walk can contact organizers through the Welland Zombie Walk Facebook page.

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Twitter: @miffirthe

Jennifer Brown has a makeup trial done in preparation for the fourth annual Welland Zombie Walk, taking place Sunday in the city's downtown core.



PHOTOS BY MARIANNE FIRTH/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Welland Zombie Walk organizers Steve Lambert and James Takeo attempt escape from Jennifer Brown. The fourth annual walk is set to invade downtown Welland Sunday at 6:30 p.m.

LOCAL NEWS

■ **HEALTH CARE:** More Niagara women are being screened at NHS centres

Standing up to breast cancer

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

Screening saves lives. And it seems women in Niagara are beginning to get the message.

The number of women in the region being screened for breast cancer is on the rise, and the local health system is doing what it can to ensure the trend will continue.

Since 2011, the number of patients in Niagara Health System's target group — ages 50 to 74 — receiving breast screenings has risen by about 15%.

A total of 22,039 patients were screened over the 2013-14 fiscal year compared to 20,307 in 2012-13 and 19,293 in 2011-12.

The NHS has three full-service Ontario Breast Screening Program centres and assessment clinics in Welland, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls. OBSP satellite clinics are also available in Port Colborne and Port Erie.

Despite promotion of the important screening program and other efforts to bring eligible women through hospital doors, there remains about 13,600 females in Niagara who should be getting screened but aren't, hospital officials say.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among Canadian women, with one in

nine diagnosed in their lifetime, said Dr. Janice Giesbrecht, medical director of the NHS's oncology program.

"One of the very positive messages is that since the 1960s, death from breast cancer has been decreasing," she said.

That, she said, is due in part to better treatments now available, but also owing to growing public awareness of the importance of regular screening, which can detect an issue early on.

Giesbrecht called routine mammograms key to the health of women between the ages of 50 and 74 in detecting cancer early, increasing the number of treatment options and improving the chance for survival.

While Niagara has "come a long way" in encouraging regular screening, Giesbrecht said, there is "still a lot of work to do" to ensure more women take advantage of the service.

"Are we satisfied with 60 to 70% of our women being screened? Why not 90%?" she said.

"We'd like to be at 100% of eligible patients."

Some of the factors that might be preventing women from getting screened include cultural, language and socioeconomic barriers, Giesbrecht said. The NHS, she added, is working to reach women in these groups

and target under-screened areas.

A "high risk protocol" is also in place that allows women as young as 30 to undergo screening with a doctor's referral, Giesbrecht said.

The patients must first undergo a risk assessment, which looks at their

family medical history and tests for genetic mutations that could increase their risk of being diagnosed with the disease.

Women ages 50 to 74 can make an appointment at an OBSP site without a doctor's referral. For more

information on NHS breast screening program, phone 905-378-4647 or visit www.niagarahhealth.on.ca/en/breast-screening.

maryanne.firth@summedia.ca
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BREAST CANCER FACTS (CANCER CARE ONTARIO)

In 2014, it's estimated 9,500 Ontario women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 1,950 will die from the disease.

Breast cancer survival rates are among the highest for all cancers in Ontario.

Breast cancer occurs primarily in women ages 50-74 (57% of cases).

Most women diagnosed with breast

cancer have no family history of the disease.

Women ages 30 to 69 who have been confirmed to be at high risk for breast cancer should be screened annually with mammography and breast MRI.

Women ages 50-74 are encouraged to be screened for breast cancer every two years with mammography.



Mammography technologist Ashley Buswell positions a woman for a routine breast screening at the St. Catharines hospital's Ontario Breast Screening Program Centre.

■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

A work in progress

PASTOR GARY TOMBUCK

Wainfleet Congregational Church, Ontario

On the north east tip on the Island of Bermuda stands a massive 19th-century church. It has walls but there is not roof, columns but no windows. It is known as the "unfinished church."

Construction started in 1870, but with financial problems coupled with great church fights, it was never completed. That's the bad news.

Here is the good news: "God is building His church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18) For the same Lord who secured salvation on the cross said "It is finished." Not I am finished. And the same one who rose again says to each Christ follower in Hebrews 12:2 He is the "author and finisher of our faith." God does not start a project and the leave it unfinished as we often do. That should mean five things for everyone: 1. Christ loves you; 2. your soul is eternal; 3. Christians are works in progress; 4. trials develop perseverance; 5. God will be glorified in everything and in everyone.

1. — Christ loved you demonstrating the greatest act of love by going to the cross, taking the entire sins of the world, past, present and future upon His sinless shoulders. He took your wrath your torture, your separation, your hell.

2. — Your soul is eternal and wherever you spend eternity will be conditional upon your response to Jesus in this life.

3. — Christians are works in progress and in that the Lord is not done with them yet. They sin, they stumble, they fall. But in and through it all, they purpose to become more like the Lord they serve.

4. — And that leads directly and dovetails with trials and tribulations. I purposely left out the most important factor, which is the essence of this article. This especially halted that unfinished Bermuda Church — It experienced a major tropical storm.

As a church and as a Christian you will experience undertows, typhoons, tsunamis, hurricanes, tornadoes, quick sand, sandbars and even heavy and jagged rocks just below the surface yet hidden from view that threaten to destroy your ship. Now let these rock-ribbed promises fill your souls with fresh

faith. God is the rock of ages and all other ground is truly sinking sand. The Lord is your lighthouse and in the darkest night He will shine His brightest light. He is also the captain of your salvation and you will make it safely to land. Connected to God's cable gives you strength. Fasten to the cross-shaped anchor of Christ gives you hope. And in dwelt with the Holy Spirit gives you endurance. In the here and now the Lord will speak calmness to your turbulent and storm-tossed heart. And when the winds increase, the waters rise and the storm beats down upon your faith, you will stand firm because the Lord is truly your only foundation.

Also in the here and now we might not look like much being in disarray and in various stages of construction, God sees the end result. He knows the end from the beginning. For the One who sees the past, present and future all at once, sees the Christian as already glorified. You are God's beautiful masterpiece and in the meantime He is painfully hammering you, chiselling you, shaping you into His image. Taking the loose and tangled threads of your life that do not seem to make any sense and weaving them into a

lovely pattern, a beautiful tapestry. Melting the impurities, removing the dross in His furnace of affliction so that you will one day be completely pure in Him, so much so that God will see His perfect image in you, as the silversmith sees his image in his own complete and pure work.

Christians are unfinished, they are works in progress. Two classics — The Pilgrims Progress and the Pilgrims Regress — speak eloquently of these things. There is often progression and regression in the Christian life. Some of us are further along the journey of sanctification than others. We are living stones being built into God's Holy Temple with all of our faults, foibles, and failings. Unfinished? Yes, but we will finish the race because of the finished work of Christ on the Cross on our behalf.

You can know this truth of all truths that if you receive Christ into your heart by faith, coming as a sinner and confessing your sins you will receive eternal life both now and later. You will be a work in progress now and fully completed later.

5. — For God will be glorified in everything and in everyone.

Shipwrecks — John B. Aird

SKIP GILLHAM
For QMI Agency Niagara

The familiar Welland Canal traveller *John B. Aird* ran aground in the St. Lawrence while downbound with a cargo of slag on Sept. 13, 2014.

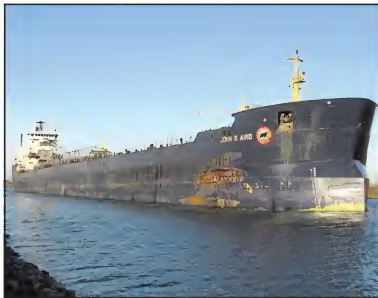
The 222.50-metre-long self-unloader stranded off Doran Shoal and required assistance to be refloated.

This ship was built in two sections with the cargo area and stern being constructed at Collingwood and the bow at Port Arthur where the two sections were joined. The completed ship was christened at the latter

shipyard on June 3, 1983, and departed for Naniticoque with 31,954 tonnes of coal on June 13.

The *John B. Aird*, part of the Algoma Central Corp. fleet, has carried a variety of cargoes over the years including coal, ore, stone, sand, salt, potash, millscale and grain. A tunnel and gate renewal project was completed in 2008 adding new life to this fine vessel.

After temporary repairs and inspection, the *John B. Aird* was cleared to complete its voyage to Sept. lies, Que., following the recent grounding but was expected to require dry-docking for permanent work.



BARRY ANDERSON/PHOTO

John B. Aird in the Welland Canal.

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LOCAL NEWS

Wainfleet food drive Oct. 25

Bring peanut butter, Kraft Dinner and canned tuna — and don't forget your old paint, batteries and motor oil.

It's an odd combination of ingredients, but one that will work extremely well in Wainfleet on Saturday, Oct. 25.

Wainfleet Lions are again teaming up with the Wainfleet branch of Meridian Credit Union to host the township's annual food drive that day.

It will be held in conjunction with Niagara Region's hazardous waste collection day, taking place at Wainfleet Arena from 8 a.m. to noon.

Three Wainfleet schools have been encouraged to collect non-perish-

able goods for the food drive the week prior to the event, and has requested that its customers drop off food at any of its local branch or make cash donations payable to "Wainfleet Lions Food Drive".

People are reminded to check expiry dates on all donated goods. Out-of-date goods, or opened goods, are not usable by the three agencies served by this food drive.

Last year, about 1,800 kilograms of non-perishable groceries and more than \$1,300 in cash donations were collected for food banks in Welland, Port Colborne and Dunnville.



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- Proven team player and relationship builder

I HAVE THE COMMITMENT:

- I have the energy to dedicate myself FULL TIME to serving our city; I always invest 100% in my work
- Lifelong resident with a personal stake in our community
- My family, including my grandchildren, lives here; I want a better community for them

I HAVE THE INTEGRITY AND I PROMISE:

- To put our community first, addressing citizens' concerns is my key priority
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■ BREAST CANCER

Country fundraising walk returns with new venue

ALLAN BENNER
OMI Agency Niagara

It began at Cedar Bay Inn in 1994, after Teresa Pizzo's mother Ramona was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Pizzo teamed with Bonnie Jackson — another breast cancer patient — to start the Country Walk for Breast Cancer.

"We started this fun little event. I think we raised like \$12,000 in 1994. I was, like, that's big money," Pizzo recalled. "It just took off."

Ramona died three years later, so they carried on the

tradition in her memory.

Now two decades since it started, they've raised more than \$450,000 to support the Ramona Pizzo-Bonnie Jackson Breast Screening Centre at the Port Colborne hospital.

"We always want to support the fighters and admire the survivors, honour the taken, and we will always never give up hope," said Jackson, a two-time breast cancer survivor who celebrated her 63rd birthday during the event.

Sunday, the walk returned to the city's countryside with

more than 100 participants at a new venue, Sherkston Family Go-Karts on Empire Rd.

The walk's new route took participants along the Friendship Trail to Pleasant Beach Rd., Beach Rd. and then north along Empire back to the starting point.

Pizzo was pleased to be able to incorporate the trail into this year's event.

"We love the trail. It has such a nice country feel with the fall colours on the leaves," she said.

This year, she said, they



ALLAN BENNER/STAFF PHOTO

Bonnie Jackson, right, talks to more than 100 participants at the 20th Country Walk for Breast Cancer Sunday with, from left, Shana Ruch, Cheryl James and Teresa Pizzo.

hope to add at least \$10,000 more to the cause although she had yet to tally the total amount raised.

Pizzo said volunteers Cheryl James and Shana

Ruch were brought on board to help her and Bonnie Jackson organize the event for years to come.

"We're fighters — the volunteers, the participants —

we're fighters. And we're fighting for the cause," she said.

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Are your *gut bacteria* making you fat?

By New York Times best-selling author
Brenda Watson, CNC



If you are like most Canadians who struggle with their weight, you have likely tried a number of diets by now, losing weight each time only to gain it back - and then some. But I'm willing to bet that you have not taken into account your inner weight loss secret. I call it the **gut factor**.

Inside your digestive tract are trillions of bacteria that play a crucial role in not only your digestive and immune health, but also your overall health - and most notably, your weight. Each of us has a unique balance of bacteria that either protects us and keeps us healthy or leaves us susceptible to disease. That same balance can either contribute to weight gain or to weight loss. When your gut bacteria are out of balance, you gain weight. Conversely, when you balance your gut by eating the right foods (and by **avoiding** the wrong foods) you lose weight, reduce cravings, ditch digestive upsets, boost immunity, reduce inflammation, and feel great. This emerging area of research is the reason I wrote *The Skinny Gut Diet*.

With *The Skinny Gut Diet*, you are going to implement a lifestyle that balances your gut. You will eat delicious foods that feed beneficial bacteria and reduce harmful bacteria. You will take supplements that help maintain that balance and support your core health, mainly high potency probiotics. By correcting your imbalance, you will reach a new state of wellness that reaches deep within you to bring about overall wellness.

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IN BRIEF

Hazardous waste depot Saturday

One of the year's two remaining household hazardous waste drop-off depots will be set up in Wainfleet Saturday for all Niagara residents. All materials should be in the original or well-marked sealed container to indicate contents. Liquid wastes must be no larger than 20 litres each.

People are also to turn off and remain inside their vehicles at all times. Acceptable items aren't limited to but include aerosol cans, batteries, fluorescent light tubes, cooking oil, herbicides, driveway sealer, motor oil, nail polish and remover, propane tanks, pool chemicals and paint.

Among items not accepted are ballasts, empty or dry paint cans, electronics, microwaves, needles and smoke detectors.

For more information on what is and is not accepted, go to www.niagararegion.ca/waste/disposal/hhw/depots.aspx.

Saturday's depot runs 8 a.m. to noon outside Wainfleet Arena.

The final drop-off depot this year is at Niagara Region headquarters in Thorold on Nov. 8 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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How well are consumers protected in Ontario's retail energy market?

That's the question the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is looking at with its review of the Energy Consumer Protection Act. The Act deals with energy retailing to low-volume consumers in the province. Just over 300 thousand residential and small business consumers in Ontario currently have contracts with electricity retailers; 362,000 have contracts with natural gas marketers.

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Ontario Finance Minister Charles Sousa endorses John Maloney.

"John Maloney has a well-deserved reputation as a strong advocate for his community. Both in his former work as a lawyer and as a Member of Parliament, John has a track record of integrity and serving the public. I have every confidence that John's ability to govern and to make strong decisions, along with his primary motivation to help others, will serve Port Colborne well if he is elected as the next Mayor."

Hon. Charles Sousa MPP, Mississauga South



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TRANSPORTATION

Niagara could get passenger trains

ROB HOULE
OMI Agency Niagara

Niagara might get north-south commuter rail service in the not-too-distant future under a plan proposed by Trillium Railway.

Trillium Railway president Karen Ettinger recently unveiled a proposal to Niagara Region politicians asking them to explore a private-public partnership that would create passenger train service between St. Catharines and Port Colborne.

The service would make use of Trillium tracks that run along the west side of the Welland Canal.

Trillium currently hauls freight to 20 industries in Port Colborne, Welland, Tho-

rold and St. Catharines. To accommodate the Niagara Rail Transit Spine, Trillium would adjust its freight schedule.

"It's great news," said Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey, chair of Niagara Region's transportation strategy steering committee.

"It's really going to galvanize the region with respect to getting an integrated transit system for the entire region."

Regional councillors recently gave staff the go-ahead to move beyond the pilot project phase of an inter-municipal transit system and to consult further with Niagara's 12 municipalities to make it happen.

Continued on next page



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VOTE MICHAEL KAMATOVIC

Public
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Board
Trustee

Open Letter To The Citizens of
Port Colborne & Fort Erie
IS YOUR VOICE HEARD???

My name is Michael Kamatovic, I am running for public school board trustee for the DSBN. The reason I am running is because many people have voiced displeasure with this school board and the decisions that have been made lately.

The community feels that there is a lack of communication, transparency and honesty. Issues are not answered honestly but answered ambiguously.

Is Port Colborne High saved or saved for a future Accommodation Review linking to a North/South axis??
Decisions are made FOR them not WITH them.

The Board asks for input but in reality it is not really wanted or listened to for the decisions have already been made.

It is understood that sometimes difficult and unpopular decisions need to be made but only after all facts are laid out, and all options have been exhausted.

And never at the expense of the community or if it impedes the students' experience and success in obtaining a good education.

If elected, I assure you that your voice will be heard! I will be open and honest and work with you in representing the best interest of the community and our children.

As for any other information that the voters need in order to make an informed and wise decision or if you have any concerns you can contact me at milokamatovic@hotmail.com or check out my Facebook page.

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Niagara could get passenger trains

From previous page

It is widely believed an integrated transit system serving all 12 municipalities is key to getting daily GO train service to Niagara.

Creating the north-south spine would serve as an extension of GO train service, Badwey said.

"It doesn't just bring GO into the north part of the region, it brings it into the north, right down the spine, from St. Catharines to Thorold into Welland and into Port Colborne," Badwey said.

Badwey said an integrated transit system that includes the Trillium Railway proposal "raises the bar" in promoting Niagara as a "world-class destination" with Niagara Falls as a focal point.

He said it's important to have the infrastructure in place to move people seamlessly through the Niagara "brand" that includes the falls, wineries, agrit-tourism, history, beaches and festivals.

"Now it's just a matter of putting the infrastructure in place to move people around so when they do come here, whether they come here through GO or they drive their vehicle here, they can simply park it and they can go anywhere throughout the entire brand," Badwey said.

In her presentation, Eitinger noted "key benefits" to a passenger train partnership between Trillium and the region include:

- A direct north-south route for Niagara residents to access key employers, creating access to a larger labour pool for employers;

- Supporting Niagara's growth strategy by enhancing transit links to central and south Niagara;

- Creating new development opportunities (residential, commercial and industrial)

clustered around NRTS stops;

- Improving the inter-municipal transit rider experience;

- Enhancing tourism.

The report says while other Ontario communities are aggressively pursuing light rail transit, which could take years and hundreds of millions of dollars to implement, Niagara Region can make use of an existing line and at a fraction of the cost.




VOTE "CHANGE"

VOTE

TIM

HOYLE

WARD 2

The Trillium report says its rail line would require approximately \$1.6 billion in upgrades to accommodate passenger service, work that could be completed in six months. The cost of upgrading or building stations or tunnels is still to be worked out, and would depend on the number of stops along the 50-kilometre rail line.

The biggest up-front cost, the report notes, would be the purchase of single locomotive passenger cars called Diesel Multiple Units, pegged at \$4 million each.

Trillium spokesman John Armstrong said two to four DMUs will be required, depending on ridership.

Other alternatives to the purchase

of new DMUs include lease agreements or the purchase of used units.

Region councillors directed staff to work collaboratively with Trillium Railway to incorporate an assessment of the Niagara Rail Transit Spine service as part of its inter-municipal transit study and its transportation master plan.



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■ PROVINCIAL OFFENCES

Old Welland school site chosen for courthouse

ROB HOULE
QMI Agency Niagara

It's done deal.

Niagara Region is set to spend \$26.5 million for a pair of new provincial offences courthouses — including one in Welland.

The announcement was made Wednesday after the ink dried on a deal to purchase the former DSBN Academy building at 20 Duncan St. and East Main St. in the Rose City.

The one-hectare property, which was also formally Empire School, was purchased for \$400,000, said Mo Lewis, the region's director of corporate services.

The total budget for the single-courtroom provincial offences building is \$7.8 million, Lewis said.

"I am confident that the residents of Niagara will be well served from our Welland and St. Catharines courthouses for many years to come," Welland Mayor Barry Sharpe said in a news release.

The new courthouse will replace the one located at 3 Cross St. opposite the historic courthouse building.

Over in St. Catharines, the region has opted to build on property it already owns

— land at King and Carlisle Sts., adjacent to the Niagara Regional Police station at 68 Church St. The land is currently a parking lot. The new courthouse, which will replace the one at 71 King St., will have three courtrooms. The total budget for that build is \$18.7 million, Lewis said.

"I am pleased that we have reached a decision regarding the location of our court facilities," St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMullan said. "The properties are centrally located, providing residents with improved access to high-quality court services, while supporting our local business communities."

Niagara Region had grappled with the idea of constructing just one provincial offences courthouse before settling on the status quo with one building in each of Welland and St. Catharines.

Provincial offences courts handle non-criminal infractions including Highway Traffic Act and municipal bylaw offences.

Construction is expected to begin in the spring.

rob.houle@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: @RobH_Standard

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- Make sure wipers are off before you start your car each morning so they aren't damaged by ice and snow buildup.
- Don't leave the wipers up, as this can loosen the springs and keep the blade from making full contact with the windshield.

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■ POVERTY RELIEF

Hopeful move

GREG FURMINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

The Hope Centre is poised to move most of its downtown Welland services over the next five years as it expands operations to offer transitional housing and related services for individuals and families.

The agency that opened in 1974 as Welland Community Resource and Action Centre has bought the Welland Professional Arts Building at 570 King St., near the Welland hospital.

Hope Centre managers insist the agency will always have a presence downtown, and for now there are no plans to move food security services.

Executive director Mark Carl said the price of the private real estate deal is not being disclosed, but did say the Toronto-based medical buildings ownership group was "very generous" in coming to terms of sale for the 16,000-square-foot, two-storey building.

The ultimate goal, Carl said, is to develop 20 top-floor transitional housing units and rent out office space to like-minded service agencies.

"Basically, anyone who helps people who are struggling with poverty-related issues.

The King St. building will ideally function as a one-stop hub of services — more than just the ones now offered at 179-181 East Main St. "It's a good solution for helping fight homelessness."

Transitional housing is an intermediary housing option between emergency shelter now offered at Hope House on Division St. and stable housing. It provides residents with a supportive environment to live in while they re-establish themselves in the community.

According to the Hope Centre, wait list times for affordable housing in Niagara range from 1.5 to 11 years. Family wait times in Niagara average about four years, almost double that of the provincial wait time of 2.4 years, while non-senior individuals and couples will wait up to seven years for housing in Niagara, in comparison to provincial wait times of 3.4 years.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the Hope Centre to expand our services to help meet the needs of the community that are not currently being met with the struggles of poverty," Hope Centre board president Greg Woods said.

"The demand for affordable and transitional housing is a growing necessity and with our current operations the Hope Centre has limited space to offer this assistance and address this need."



MESSAGE TO THE RESIDENTS OF PORT COLBORNE FROM FRED DAVIES, CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR:

It is time for a new vision and a new approach – a positive new plan for Port Colborne.

The next four years will require tough decisions and hands-on knowledge of finance and economic development strategies. I bring that important experience to the Council table.

I am not a professional politician and I haven't spent my career in politics. I bring a new perspective to local issues – a business perspective. We need that kind of Mayor today.

I've spent the past 25 years employing people and creating opportunities for our local economy. I am in the prime of my life and have the energy, drive, commitment and time to make Port Colborne a better City. It's time to look forward with confidence with a brand new voice.

I was born here and went to school here. My kids grew up here as well. I stayed here when many others didn't. I am passionate about Port Colborne!

My commitment is to always have YOU in mind as decisions are made. We all have a stake in Port Colborne. My family has been here for generations and I want my kids to have the same opportunity to raise their children here. With YOUR VOTE, we can get the job done!

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/FredDavies4Mayor

■ POVERTY RELIEF

Hope Centre buys Welland building, expanding into transitional housing

From previous page

Since 2013 the Hope Centre has undergone a transformation to address the various challenges related to operational efficiency and financial stability.

Said Carl: "It's packed all the time. It's jammed."

The Hope Centre is developing a five-year plan to transition to King St.

During this transition the Hope Centre will continue to operate the community food bank, the Hope Kitchen, and provide support services at

the 179-181 East Main St. building.

Hope House at 116 Division St. will continue to be operated by Hope Centre as a 24-hour emergency shelter until at least the end of next March, when its contract with Niagara Regional Housing expires. A review of Niagara's emergency housing needs is ongoing.

The Hope Centre provides residents with basic needs, including through the Hope Kitchen, its food bank, Coats for Kids and Families and

Christmas hampers. It assists with housing, advocacy, literacy skills and preparation for job interviews.

A capital fundraising campaign for the new building is to launch in January.

"We want to invite the people that live in the neighbourhoods surrounding the King St. location to be part of the process, so we will be hosting a number of community conversations as well as hard-hat tours for the public," said Carolyn Fast, community developer for the

Hope Centre.

A tour will be offered 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 29. To reserve a space, call Fast at 905-788-0744 ext. 223.

Carl said when the sale closed at the end of September, the building was 75% vacant.

The pharmacy once at 570 King is now on Ontario Rd. Many doctors offices have also moved to that site — the former Ukrainian hall — or to the new McMaster building on Prince Charles Dr.



Hope Centre community development co-ordinator Carolyn Fast, left, and program administrator Brenda Langan converse in the agency's cramped downtown Welland building lobby. The Hope Centre is expanding, having bought the Welland Professional Arts Building on King St.

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Gasoline will not be decanted at the depot. The container and the contents will be taken for safe disposal.

Please refer to www.niagararegion.ca/waste for a full list of acceptable materials and packaging and handling requirements.

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Niagara Region

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The Wainfleet Lion's Club will also be holding its annual food collection drive for area food banks.

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Unacceptable Materials

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■ **GOVERNMENT:** Greater emphasis on working more closely with municipalities is paying dividends

Kudos for region CAO's first year on the job

ROB HOULE
(MI) Agency Niagara

What a difference a year makes.

In October 2013, Niagara Falls' chief administrative officer was quite critical of the relationship — or lack thereof — between his city and Niagara Region.

"Our voice, or our comments, are not being heard at the regional level," Ken Todd

told Niagara Falls city council. "We are brought into the loop way too late in the process or our comments are falling, basically, on deaf ears. (City staff comments) are disappearing into a black hole."

Fast-forward a year. "I can tell you in the past 12 months, since Harry's arrival, the relationship at a staff level has just completely turned around," Todd said this month. He was speaking of Harry

Schlange, who took the helm of the region as CAO on Oct. 28, 2013.

When former CAO Mike Trojan retired in June 2013, Niagara Region Chair Gary Burroughs said in a recent interview, council saw it as an opportunity to "change how we

do business."

Trojan had been with the region since 1986 and was its top bureaucrat for 13 years.

"This council," Burroughs said, "decided that the same-old, same-old was not good enough."

Burroughs, who was lord

mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake for 10 years, said in an "us versus them" mentality had developed between lower-tier government staffs and region staff.

He said Schlange tabled a plan to bridge that divide.

"The focus is so different,

because we're here to help the local municipalities," Burroughs said. "That didn't happen — at least I don't think we thought it was our role. So that's a big change."

Continued on next page

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■ **GOVERNMENT:** Greater emphasis on working more closely with municipalities is paying dividends

Kudos for region CAO's first year on the job

From previous page

Schlange, a former CAO for the Town of Fort Erie, said a culture change was required at the region.

"My major sales pitch (in the interview process) was that the time for Niagara was now to build

a new organization," Schlange said, giving credit to a council that wanted change.

"I pitched how I could be the person who can help council — because it was their vision — build an organization that was quite different."

He said he introduced what he believes to be a "winning formula."

"The first thing was we had to realize as a Region that we were there to support and make the municipalities more prosperous and healthy," Schlange said. "If

we could think about how we make each and every municipality stronger and more prosperous, then that would build a stronger region."

"It was almost turning it upside down. It was taking upper tier to a more support role."

Schlange said since he was hired, he has pushed a "one team" approach among region staff.

"To that end, he brought together "fragmented" departments that operated in "silos."

"We had to really build trust and confidence with all the departments and all the divisions as one corporation," Schlange said.

That resulted in some consolidation. As an example, finance staff who were within each department were brought together into one corporate finance team.

"Structurally, we consolidated things so we would think more as one team," the 56-year-old St. Catharines native said.

To lead the team, Schlange brought in several new department heads. Prior to his being hired, a number of senior staff positions had been vacant because of retirements or managers moving on. Those positions were left to be filled by the new CAO.

Schlange filled many of those positions with people he had worked with in Fort Erie.

"They all went through competitions to get those jobs, but in the end, their leadership styles are very suitable for where Niagara needs to go now. And that's why they were selected," Schlange said.

"It's about getting the right leaders... that are team players on the new culture here that's there to support the municipalities and be team players. And that's the kind of leaders we're bringing in. And we're still assessing current leaders and making sure we're all rowing in the same direction."

Continued on Page 20

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GOVERNMENT: Greater emphasis on working more closely with municipalities is paying dividends

Kudos for region CAO's first year on the job

From Page 18
In the past nine months, Schlange has organized "professional development" sessions in which

leaders from Niagara Region and the 12 municipalities exchange ideas.
Burroughs said the new regime

has reached out to the business community.

"The other piece that I think is important is that all the asso-

ciations, everything from the NIA (Niagara Industrial Association), the realtors, heavy construction association ... felt disconnected from the region. And they are our business base. They're the big businesses in our community, and they were angry with us. In sitting down with them, it started a relationship—they're now one of our bigger supporters."

Christina Milan, vice-chair and treasurer of the NIA board of directors, said there is now co-operation between industry and the region.

"Everybody (in the past) was trying to do their own thing, now we're working together, putting our resources together, rather than working individually," Milan said.

She said her association and the region are banding together and planning trade missions selling Niagara as a place to do business.

She noted the Region's economic development director sits on the association's board of directors, which is a first.

"We're pulling our resources together, which is key," Milan said. "And we're communicating and saying, hey, this is what we need."

While he acknowledged there is still work to do, Schlange said he is satisfied

THIRD PARTY VALIDATION

Audit firm Deloitte conducted a survey in August and compared its results with those of 2013.

Here is what it found:

In 2013, none of the five economic development offices in Niagara were satisfied with Niagara Region; in 2014 five of five were satisfied.

In 2013, two of 12 municipalities said they were satisfied with Niagara Region; in 2014, 12 of 12 said they felt a positive difference.

"we're moving in the right direction." Count Ken Todd among those impressed.

"I haven't seen that kind of cooperation in a number of years. It's been really refreshing for us to see," he said.

"I think with some of the changes Harry's made there, some of the new staff he's brought in, I think there's a refreshed view of what public service is all about."

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **FUNDRAISER:** Physician seeks donations to support children's charity

Port Colborne doctor takes on Ironman



Dr. Derek Rivers, of Port Colborne, is preparing to participate in his third Ironman race on Nov. 16. Rivers, pictured at Ironman Austria in June, is fundraising for the upcoming race in support of SmileTrain, an international charity that provides free surgery to children suffering from cleft lip and cleft palate.

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

About 12 1/4 hours. That's how long Dr. Derek Rivers anticipates it will take to change the lives of at least 20 children from around the globe.

When the Port Colborne physician participates in his third full Ironman race Nov. 16 in Tempe, Ariz., he will do so with SmileTrain on his mind.

The international charity provides free surgery to children in impoverished nations who are suffering from cleft lip and palate.

Rivers is working to raise money for the cause prior to the race, hoping to collect more than \$5,000 — the cost to provide surgery for 20 youths.

The father of two was drawn to the charity not only because of its medical connection, but also because of its focus on children.

He hopes to help those born with the condition escape the abandonment and isolation they often face in other nations.

Though the reparative surgery costs only about \$250, it's often more than most families can afford and the condition is left

untreated.

"It feels good to be able to help," Rivers said, crediting the community for its generous support.

He's determined not to let his supporters down.

The 43-year-old doctor has been training hard for the Ironman, which sees participants endure a 3.86-kilometre swim, 180.25-kilometre bike ride and 42.2-kilometre run consecutively.

"It keeps you incredibly fit," he said with a laugh, adding it's a workout both mentally and physically.

It's the challenge of the one-day competition that keeps Rivers coming back for more, as well as the opportunity to help others in the process.

He's already planning to undertake his fourth Ironman next summer.

Donations for the Tempe race can be made online at support.smiletrain.org/goto/DerekRivers. Cheques made out to SmileTrain and cash donations are accepted at Mapleview Medical Clinic, 340 Elgin St. in Port Colborne. Deadline for donations is Nov. 9.

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IN BRIEF

College wins award

Niagara College was recognized recently for its efforts to raise the profile and understanding of environmental issues.

The college was honoured in Ottawa Oct. 9 as the Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication 2014 winner of its outstanding post-secondary institution award.

The awards recognize individuals and

organizations for their influence in advancing environmental learning.

"Niagara College's enthusiasm for protecting and enhancing the environment was apparent through its operational efforts and student life," said Nadine Lafort, ECOM director and co-chair of the awards committee.

"The variety of programs offered that focus on energy, waste, carbon, paper, water, biodiversity, student engagement and more highlight just how much sustainability has been integrated into all areas of the college."



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Fortunately, a vaccine is now available to boost your immune system and help to prevent shingles and its complications. It is called Zostavax and is available to adults over 50 years old. The vaccine cannot be used if you are already experiencing symptoms of shingles; it is only used for prevention. This vaccine was found to reduce the risk of developing shingles by about 50-70% (depending on your age) within the first year after receiving the vaccine.

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■ **AGRICULTURE:** Threat to apples

Invasive bug found at Niagara border crossing

ALISON LANGLAY
CML Agency Niagara

An invasive insect, the first of its kind known to exist in the Western Hemisphere, was found in a transport truck at a

Niagara border crossing. U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officers discovered the bug on Monday, Oct. 6, after inspectors at the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge searched a truck that was hauling an

ocean container full of pump valves that originated in China.

The moth, known as *Phaeocasiophora fernaldiana* Walsingham, is a potential threat to the agriculture industry

because it is known to feed on apples, apple buds, leaves and shoots, according to officials with Customs and Border Patrol.

An entomologist with the U.S. Department of Agricul-

ture confirmed two days later the moth was the invasive insect.

"CBP agriculture specialists in the Port of Buffalo do an excellent job of detecting invasive pests

that could cause harm to the United States agriculture industry," said Randy Howe, CBP director of field operations.

Continued on next page

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■ **AGRICULTURE:** Threat to apples

Invasive bug found at Niagara border crossing

From previous page
"We have an excellent working relationship with USDA and this is another example of CBP and USDA working closely together to protect the nation's agricultural resources."

The CBP issued an emergency action notification to the Importer and the shipment was returned to Canada.

Officials with the Canadian

Border Services Agency were not available for comment.

alison.langley@summedia.ca
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SUPPLIED PHOTO

An invasive moth was found in an ocean container from China at a Niagara border crossing earlier this month.

SPOTLIGHT on service

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ELECT Vance Badawey - REGIONAL COUNCILLOR

LEADERSHIP THAT WORKS FOR YOU

As Mayor and Regional Councillor, Vance has a record of leadership while working with a great team at the City and at the Region. As your Regional Councillor.



Previous Experience

- Chairman, Port Colborne Health Services Task Force
- Chairman, South Niagara Health Care Corporation
- Chairman, Safe Communities Port Colborne
- Chairman, Port Colborne Economic & Tourism Development Corporation
- Chairman, Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival
- Chairman, Port Colborne Energy
- Director, Port Colborne Police & Port Colborne Fire
- Member, Port Colborne Finance Committee
- Member, Port Colborne Value Health & Wellness Centre Committee
- Chairman, Port Colborne Physician Recruitment, Retainment and Education Committee
- Member, Niagara Regional Police Services Board
- Chairman, Regional Gateway Economic Zone & Centre Committee
- Chairman, Regional Marketing Committee
- Member, Regional Public Works Committee
- Chairman, Niagara Sport Commission
- Co-Chair, Regional Development Charges Task Force
- Member, Regional Public Health Committee
- Member, Regional Corporate Services Committee
- Member, Regional Audit Committee
- Member, Regional Integrated Planning Committee

- Co-Chair, Regional Transportation Strategy Steering Committee
- Member, Regional Inter-Municipal Specialized Transit Advisory Committee
- Member, Regional Joint Advisory Committee
- Member, Regional Property Assessment and Taxation Ad Hoc Committee
- Member, Regional Smarter Niagara Steering Committee
- Member, Regional Water Management Planning Steering Committee
- Member, Niagara Scottiabank Convention Centre Board of Directors
- Member, Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
- Founder, Mayor's Youth Advisory Council
- Founder, Mayor's Senior's Advisory Committee
- Coach & Volunteer - School/Community Youth Sports
- Honorary Chairman - Jericho House Capital Campaign
- 4th Degree - Knights of Columbus
- Port President, Secretary, Port Colborne Klamath Club
- Member, International Shipmaster's Association
- Member, Port Colborne Pro/Am "World Challenge" Bus Championship
- Port Director & Campaign Chair, United Way of South Niagara Board of Directors
- Founding Board Member, Wellspring Niagara (Cancer Support Services)

Getting It Done

Working for Port Colborne - Continuing to Get the Job Done...

JOB CREATION:

As your Mayor and Regional Councillor, Vance led a team that created the new "Regional Economic Strategy" that will create jobs through a plan of action, focusing on our strong transportation infrastructure, manufacturing base, strong supplier chain as well as an educated workforce to retain and attract new business development to our City and Region.



"While working with Vance to expand Oakham Steel, I continue to be impressed with his work ethic and dedication. I fully support Vance Badawey to continue to represent Port Colborne at the Region as he has for the past 14 years. He has shown a strong Mayor and representative at Regional Council who listens to all sides of an issue before making an informed decision. His experience, leadership and dedication will ensure he continues to put Port Colborne first." Kevin Langaruk, General Manager of Oakham Steel



A Record of Leadership



- Mayor and Niagara Regional Councillor 2006 — Present
- Mayor and Niagara Regional Councillor 1997 — 2003
- City Councillor — Ward 4 City of Port Colborne 1994 — 1997
- George Badawey Marine Ltd. 1985 — Present

Projects completed under Vance's Leadership...



Experience & Leadership... Getting it done for Port Colborne

"I have worked with Vance for the past 14 years on physician recruitment, retention, and education in the community, fighting for our hospital services in Port Colborne. He understands the issues involved in health care and is a strong voice for our community at the regional, provincial and federal level. Vance has worked side by side with the front line providers of health care to ensure every citizen has access to quality care in our community. Vance will continue to put health care at the heart of his priority list as he leads Port Colborne at the region."

Dr. Amanda Bell, Port Colborne Physician

"Vance Badawey, the Mayor and Regional Councillor for the City of Port Colborne, who along with Debbie Zimmerman and very few others, is one of the most earnest and most progressive politicians I've seen on the regional scene in my more than 30 years of covering municipal politics in Niagara."

Doug Draper, Niagara At Large

Getting it done to build a stronger Community

Getting It Done

- Throughout Vance's 14 year tenure as Mayor, the average tax increase was below 2%.
- Vance delivered more than \$15 million in regional tax savings to Port Colborne.

"There is no better qualification than experience. This comes from dedication, commitment, having your priorities in place and fulfilling promises made to the people you represent. Having been Mayor and Regional Councillor for 14 years, I believe Vance is the best qualified individual to represent the people of Port Colborne at the regional level." Lawson Snider

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS:

As your Mayor and Regional Councillor, Vance continues to bring back to Port Colborne additional dollars from all levels of government for infrastructure renewal.



- Vance continues to address overdue infrastructure investments.
- Vance continues to lead local and regional processes that has established an infrastructure financing strategy.
- Vance delivered to Port Colborne more than \$80 million in regional, provincial and federal infrastructure investments.

VANCE WORKS FOR YOU — Putting Port Colborne First—Getting Results...

"As former Chair and member of Niagara Regional Council I have admired Vance's approach to work diligently on behalf of the City of Port Colborne. He is a visionary, consensus builder and strong advocate for the citizens he represents." Debbie Zimmerman, Former Chair Niagara Region



Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey urged regional councillors across the region to stand shoulder to shoulder and speak as one voice in pressing for proper hospital services and care in Port Colborne. Doug Draper, Niagara At Large

- For the second time in 8 years, Vance was successful in keeping our local police detachment open.
- Under Vance's leadership a Multi-Modal Transportation Strategy is in place, including the construction of a new four lane highway between the QEW and Hwy #140 in 2016 - the first leg of the Mid Peninsular Corridor.
- Vance continues to fight for equal access to health care services for the residents of Port Colborne.
- Vance continues to lead efforts to establish a regional transit system and bring GO RAIL to Niagara year round.

"Vance represents our community with passion and conviction. He leads with a strong, effective presence at all levels of government. He is a leader whose voice is heard. He gets the job done!" Tom Langan

FIGHTING FOR TAXPAYERS

.....

DELIVERING RESULTS



"David is a hard-worker and is very accessible. He responds to all phone calls and takes time to listen and understand. He shows he cares. David has our vote."

- Jan & Barrie Wilson
Residents of Port Colborne



"Like me, David has a young family. He knows the challenges and pressures that young families face as they work to pay their bills and take care of family members. David knows that big government spending and high taxes are not good for anyone. David has my vote."

- Ginny Ursini-Klingbell
Port Colborne Resident



"David has a great understanding of the needs of the business community. He understands that government does not exist to create jobs but rather to create the right conditions that allow the private sector to compete and thrive. That's what creates jobs. David has my vote."

- Wayne Elliott
Founder of International Marine Salvage



"As Co-Chair of the Region's Corporate Services Committee, David has been instrumental in holding the line on spending and keeping tax increases to a minimum. David is a natural leader who has earned the respect and confidence of his Council colleagues and peers."

- Mark Bylsma
Regional Councillor Town of Lincoln



"I'm delighted to be here on behalf of David Barrick ... we only have good councillors if men and women become actively part of the political process and make sure we have a democracy that works."

- John Turner
Former Prime Minister

ON OCTOBER 27TH

RE-ELECT

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REGION

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